

Rosie and Ward Burroughs with their children own and operate sustainable farms in California's Central Valley. The Burroughs work hard to lower their carbon footprint, and to create nutrient rich soil that will benefit the future generations that will make a life and living from their farmland.

The Burroughs family has always had a commitment to provide quality dairy products to their customers. The family's dairy roots started out with Benjamin Burroughs, who moved from Illinois to Oakland in 1896 to start Walnut Grove Creamery. Over 120 years later, Benjamin's grandson Ward and his family now own Burroughs Family Farms in California's Central Valley, a flagship for marketing products that are produced by each of their family members' individual farms, including grass-based, organic milk and cheese, pasture-raised beef and eggs, and organic almonds and olive oil.

With three generations currently involved in Burroughs Family Farms, there is a deep connection between the family and the industry that has such deep ties to their heritage. As modern-day organic farmers they look at the whole system with a belief that everything has a purpose, and they embrace a responsibility to protect and nurture the environment that they rely on. They've integrated systems into their farm that protect not only their cows, but the entire biological cycle that is so involved in their business.

On the rolling foothills of the Central Valley the Burroughs have adopted a French drain system that channels excess water into storage ponds for later use. By channeling the water in this way, they are able to side-step the topsoil erosion and drainage problems that many farmers face on their land. Not only does this process replenish the aquifers beneath the fields, it also recycles all water for irrigation so that none of it leaves the farms.

Though management intensive grazing, they've cut down their costs of importing feed inputs from off the farm, which also reduces the greenhouse gas emissions created when transporting feed across the country. In fact, almost everything that is done on the Burroughs farms has sustainability and soil in mind, including their composting practices. By avoiding commercial and synthetic fertilizers and pesticides and using their manure and compost instead, they are also reducing their carbon footprint, building and protecting their soil and its essential microbiology to a more natural input.

On their almond farm, solar panels provide 80% of the power needed to irrigate the trees during the summer, offsetting some of the rising fuel and energy costs that are plaguing farmers around the country. The almond farm is also equipped with a weather station and soil moisture meters that are able to accurately detect moisture content, a technology that helps create the optimal conditions to grow.

For grandparents like Rosie and Ward, leaving their farm better off than when they got it is the single most important thing that they can accomplish for their family.

Rosie and Ward are involved in several organizations including the advisory board of California Climate and Agricultural Network (CalCAN), the Leadership Council of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture & Resilient Systems at CSU Chico, the organic panel for the California Almond Board, Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA). These groups have brought awareness to different issues and have worked to promote climate-friendly farming and also advocate for organic production.

**Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Information Required From Nongovernmental Witnesses**

House rules require nongovernmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. **Name:** Rose Marie Burroughs (Rosie)
2. **Organization you represent:** Our Marketing: Burroughs Family Farms Farm Partnerships: Burroughs Family Orchards, California Cloverleaf Farms, Full Circle Dairy.
3. **Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee:** We are carrying on the family farming legacy of farming/ranching for over 120 years. My husband Ward and I have been farming/ranching since 1974. We started farming with our children in 2000.
4. **Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee:** We left Cal Poly SLO in 1974 and have spent our career 50 years taking classes, workshops, fielddays, seminars specializing in Management Intesive Grazing, Holistic Management, Organic and Sustainable Farming/Ranching, Organic Dairy Care of Livestock, Grazing, and Regenerative Practices. We have participated in Research the last 50 years.
5. **If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:** N/A

**PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF  
TESTIMONY.**